

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/684,684

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 12-20 are withdrawn from consideration by Examiner. New independent claim 21 has been added.

Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner and Supervisor for the courtesies extended to Yoshimichi Takano and John Bird during the personal interview on April 25, 2005. The drawing objections, rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of claims 2 and 11, and the prior art rejections of claims 2 and 9 were discussed. Applicant has provided remarks below along the lines discussed during the interview.

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to because reference characters "2e" and "2f" have both used to designate a groove in Figures 10 and 11. In response, Applicant has deleted the reference character "2f" from these figures in the replacement drawings.

The drawings are objected to because the axial groove 2e in Figures 10 and 11 is not a proper representation of the axial groove being greater in depth than the circumferential groove as shown in Figure 9 and claimed in claim 2. However, as shown in FIGs. 8, 10, and 11, the axial groove 2e is greater in depth than circumferential groove 2d. That is, as shown in FIG. 10, the bottom of axial groove 2e extends closer to the center of shaft member 2 than the bottom of the circumferential groove 2d. Therefore, the axial groove 2e has a greater depth than the circumferential groove 2d.

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